



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative

Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

Online Version: <https://feedthefuture.gov/article/lasting-impact-food-security>

A Lasting Impact on Food Security

I recently traveled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to visit food assistance programs implemented by USAID's [Office of Food for Peace](#). My first impression of the Congo was the same feeling I had in Uganda when visiting projects there last year—why in countries so lush and ripe for agriculture were people so food insecure? Food insecurity is a complex issue, and for the DRC it includes key issues such as low productivity, lack of market access and infrastructure, ongoing conflict and poor nutrition practices.

As a country struggling to pull itself out of conflict, the DRC is a challenging environment to work in. Never mind the logistical challenges for our partners and staff: little infrastructure in program areas; communities cut off by rains, conflict or other factors at certain times of year; and monitoring difficulties due to USAID staff being based on the opposite side of the country from the projects.

Despite these challenges, I was amazed at the ability of USAID's partners to have as much positive impact as they have had on food security. This was particularly apparent in the visits where development assistance had ended the previous year, but the lasting impact of programs was still very visible.

[Continue reading the blog post on the USAID IMPACTblog](#)